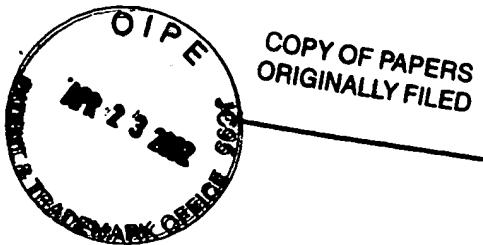


ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
IEX 2044001 (4889:62)



PATENT APPLICATION
SERIAL NO. 09/465,690

IN THE CLAIMS:

A clean version of the amended claims is attached, as well as a version with markings to show the changes made.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Page 18, line 3, delete "In one basic embodiment of the invention, a" and insert --A--.

Page 18, line 3, insert --is provided-- after "method."

Page 18, line 5, delete "comprising" and insert --including--.

Page 18, line 10, delete "values" and insert --value--.

Page 18, line 11, delete "are" and insert --is--.

Page 18, lines 11-15, delete "wherein the factor having the highest order bits of the vector and the remaining factors are assigned to subsequent orders of bits in their assigned order of importance."

Page 18, lines 18-19, delete ", including schedule swaps of specific factors within schedules."

Page 18, lines 20-23, delete "Preferably, the process of assigning schedules is performed beginning with the highest ranked agent and repeated for the next highest ranked agent until all agents have been processed."

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REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending of which Claims 13, 14, 17, and 18 have been amended. Applicants have carefully considered the Application in view of the Examiner's action and, in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of all pending claims.

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to, because it exceeds 150 words and uses terms such as "embodiment" and "comprising." In response, Applicants have corrected these errors to meet the requirements under MPEP § 608.01(b). Also, Applicants voluntarily substituted "value" for "values" on page 18, line 10 of the Application as originally filed, and voluntarily substituted "is" for "are" on page 18, line 11. Applicants believe that these voluntary